

CONTENTS::

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- P.1 EDITORIAL - 'A question of WHY???'
 - P.2 NEWS THE NORTHERN ENGLAND CATALOGUE -progress report
 - P.3 UMIST MEETING REPORT BRITISH AIRWAYS RADAR/VISUAL CASE
 - P.4 Northern Ireland Report - Part 1
 - P.5 HISTORICAL CASES CURRENT REPORTS: Muro
 - P.6 CURRENT REPORTS: Muro, Ufora Staffs, Bufora
 - P.7 & 8 MULTI-WITNESS PHENOMENON OVER BOLTON: Digap & Mufora

EDITORIAL: 'A. question of WHY???'
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No doubt from time to time you find yourself wondering WHY? Why DO we spend so much time tracking down these elusive Ufo's, and often banging our heads against a wall of disbelief? Sometimes I find myself wondering this as I see the paper work lying ahead of me after just having struggled through masses of it for my college studies. If I ask, is it all worth it, then I always reach the same conclusion. Even so, why do I think it is?

Someone sprang a question on me the other day. 'Why are you involved in ufo work?' My answer came almost instinctively, 'Because I like a challenge'. Is this a satisfactory answer? Those of you who have not done so should read the book 'Cults of Unreason' by Dr. Christopher Evans. You will find yourself disagreeing with the basic tenet of psychologists that we are involved in ufology because we NEED to be, but it is a valid hypothesis and we ought to do it the justice of careful thought. We must ALL ask ourselves that question of why and be satisfied by the answer that we give ourselves.

Clearly there are people to whom ufos are extremely important. I think that this is true of me, but not, I hope, to the extreme that it does reach in instances where it becomes a complete obsession. Yet where does the dividing line lie between obsession and deep involvement, and does it matter anyway? Perhaps there is this ingrown need for the mystique of ufology and perhaps there are psychological factors which can group type a ufologist apart from the rest of humanity. I would like to see psychologists attempt a study of ufologists to try to isolate any common tendencies which might pin down the reason why ufologists are ufologists. In many ways the APEN phenomenon has provided an ideal medium for experimentation of this type and I cannot help but imagine groups of psychologists somewhere busily typing out these silly letters and running round the country posting them to test reaction. If so I for one would like to see the results of their work. It could be a most important research study.

Let me try to analyse my interest. Basically I am interested in the unusual. Anything nobody can explain. Yet I steer clear of such things as Spiritualism and many psychic phenomena principally because to my mind they have an inadequate scientific basis. They are more a case of you believe it or not on faith. I am more interested in something that can be demonstrated as real. That is the real why about ufos. Because to my rational mind they exist as a definite (though not necessarily PHYSICAL) phenomenon and consequently I feel that a methodology must exist for proving their reality and defining it. In other words it IS a challenge, and I am working towards a clear objective. I have been slightly sidetracked into administrative avenues because I see the abject need for re-organisation within our ufo structural system, but as a long term aim I still see such things as the Northern England catalogue and research of its like producing RESULTS.

There does not appear to be anything sinister about my motives - but can I judge? It needs a psychologist to come up with a proper set of questions to put to ufologists about their reasonings. After an intensive study of that kind maybe then we would know the answer to the question of WHY?

CONTRIBUTIONS THIS MONTH: BUFORA, DIGAP, FAPURG, Irish UFO Research Centre, MUFORA, MURO, UFORA Staffs, Ian Cresswell, Harold Scothern.

Special thanks to Sigap for their report on the British Airways case.

(Northern UFO News - Published monthly - Subscription £2 Jan-Dec 77)

If copy is extracted please credit NUFON and the investigators concerned

NB: SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS ARE DUE FOR MOST PEOPLE WITH THE DECEMBER ISSUE.

THE RATE FOR 1977 IS UNCHANGED (£2 single issues, as before multiple issues)

IT WOULD GREATLY HELP IF YOU WOULD RENEW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Renewal due YES / ~~NO~~

SUFORS
Nigel Wagon

NUFON:: The Northern UFO Network is a communication and liaison medium for independant organisations and researchers in Northern Britain. The Northern UFO News is a monthly forum for news, views and ideas. The opinions expressed herein, do not necessarily reflect the network as a whole.

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NEWS

:: It is with regret that I must inform you of the death of Mr Tom Cassinelli of the Sheffield, Dinnington and Rotherham UFO Research Association. He is a fugure who was well known throughout NUFON for his cheerful attitude. He was also a leading organiser of the Sheffield convention. Sincere condolences go to his family, and to his friends in Sheffield. The group will continue under direction of: Peter Wakefield 159 Roughwood Rd, Kimberworth Park, Rotherham, S.Yorks.

:: BUFORA have published their excellent guide to investigation. Called 'UFO INVESTIGATION' it retails at £2.50 (members) and £3.50 (non-members). Despite the high cost it is very good value for its 130 pages of invaluable information. Copies are available through Jenny Randles (cheques to BUFORA Ltd. please)

:: Some news from the NUFON groups. UFOSIS have published the second issue of their magazine PROTEUS. Please write to them if you are interested in obtaining a copy. MUFORA have decided to branch out with two meetings a month instead of one. This has been found necessary following a tremendous growth of serious interest in ufology in Greater Manchester. One meeting will be an open public meeting, and the other will be a specialised research evening. BUFORA NORTHERN IRELAND, whilst remaining the BUFORA branch in that country, have adopted a new name: the IRISH UFO RESEARCH CENTRE.

NORTHERN ENGLAND CATALOGUE

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We are now in a position to give a progress report on this project, which is now involving both CONTACT UK and BUFORA in addition to NUFON. The principal aim is to produce a comprehensive catalogue listing ALL documented ufo reports in Northern England (ie from the Scottish border to a line through the southern end of the West Midlands). This will be presented in chronological order from the very earliest recorded report to, probably, the end of 1976 (although it will be produced in such a format to facilitate additions of updated sections for future years).

Work at the moment is involving four persons. Ian Cresswell, an independant researcher from Morecambe, is coordinating the project and supervising the transfer of material from major publications, such as Flying Saucer Review, onto a card file. These then go to Bernard Delair who enters all CONTACT UK reports and amends any detail. They then come to Jenny Randles for all BUFORA reports, and finally to Peter Warrington for NUFON reports. Work on this system has now reached the late 1950's, though additional material is certain to come to light and it is probable that a further year will be required to fully complete the project (and not six months as previously stated in the News). Obviously we need all manner of additional assistance, in such things as researching of local newspaper files and obscure series of magazines and local group publications. Immense amounts of data can also be retrieved from old philosophical records. Any offers of help should go to Ian Cresswell at 12 Newlands Rd, Morecambe, with details of exactly WHAT you can research (to avoid any duplication of effort).

The final published work will be an extremely valuable addition to ufological literature. It is envisaged that various indices will be included to increase its worth. These will include a complete reference index for all reports (to enable further research to add to the codified data that will be included), a geographical index which will list localities and all reports occurring in that place (to assist in ufocal research) and a complete abstraction of various subtypes of report (eg electro-magnetic cases, landing cases etc), which will facilitate more specific catalogues of the same ilk as Ted Phillips Physical Traces catalogue and BUFORAs electro magnetic catalogue. Some statistical analysis will also be done on the reports, which are expected to total several thousand.

This will be the first catalogue of its type in the world, and we are hoping to initiate comparable catalogues for Southern England, Scotland and Ireland very shortly. A Welsh catalogue is already in production.

NORTHERN UFO NETWORK UMIST MEETING

On October 23 NUFON held its fourth representative committee meeting; following on from a lecture organised by MUFORA and given by author Raymond Drake. The lecture attracted over 160 people, and the NUFON meeting was also very well attended and successful in its proceedings. For those requiring them a descriptive report is as usual available through Philip Rogers of UFOSIS (136 Cleveland Tower, Holloway Circus, Birmingham B1 1UE). Several important points need to be set down here, however.

1: The meeting unanimously voted in favour of the following proposal: 'That NUFON openly supports the aims and ideals of the British UFO Documentation Centre and will endeavour to assist it to fulfill these aims'. Although there was such an overwhelming support it was decided that should any group be against this decision they may publically make this known through these pages, and such a decision on their part will be accepted and respected by NUFON as a whole.

2: The result of the referendum on association and affiliation status was FIVE votes for the motion and ONE against. The vote against was from SUFORS, who agreed not to force the issue provided the fluidity of the situation was maintained. This was agreed. Hence ALL GROUPS must now notify whether they wish to be an ASSOCIATE group of NUFON or simply affiliated. IF an Associate group then they must send a representative to the representatives meetings and a quorum of ASSOCIATES must be present to enable decisions to be made. (Votes can be made in writing). The vote of an affiliate, whilst still acceptable, will NOT be necessary to a quorum. Any group who is originally just an affiliate can become an ASSOCIATED group at their discretion. Please notify the secretary as soon as possible, if not already done so in response to the referendum.

3: Mr Robert Morrell (NUFOIS) 443 Meadow Lane, Nottingham NG2 3NB is coordinating a working committee for the NUFON Spring 1977 convention. It is envisaged that this will be based on a theme, and to ensure first class organisation work will be commencing right away. Any individual prepared to assist this committee, and it must be accepted that this will involve some work and attendance at extra meetings, should contact Robert Morrell right away.

4: The NUFON executive was re-elected viz Trevor Whitaker (MUFORA Yorks) as Chairman, Jenny Randles (MUFORA) as Secretary, Peter Warrington (MUFORA) as Treasurer and Records Officer. It was additionally decided that any new nominations would be taken at each meeting, with an unlimited size of committee. (All other regulations, eg no more than two from one group, to still apply). The following were elected onto the committee: Ken Green (WUFOS), Philip Rogers (UFOSIS), Bill Skellon (DIGAP)

An updated REFERENCE DATA SHEET will be produced in view of these alterations.

AN INTERESTING FOREIGN REPORT

BRITISH AIRWAYS CREW TRACK UFO VISUALLY AND ON RADAR

This event was investigated by SIGAP on behalf of MUFORA. We are very fortunate to have discovered it as the crew were interviewed by the Ministry of Defence. Since the case lies outside British airspace, however, we suspect there was nothing that could be done about it. The events occurred on JULY 30 1976 at 20.00 GMT. A British

Airways Trident was flying to Faro, Portugal, with a highly experienced crew. They were at position 38.30 degrees NORTH and 08.30 degrees WEST (just south east of Lisbon). Height 29,000 feet. Bearing 195 degrees. Air Speed 500 knots. Lisbon control asked a Tristar ahead of the British Airways flight if they could see a ufo they had

had reported. They said they could and on

THE SCENE DRAWN BY THE CREW

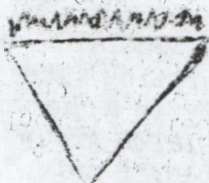
looking the Trident crew saw it also. They describe it as a big white headlamp, stationary at 90 degrees bearing 30 degrees elevation. They kept it in view for several minutes as they flew by. After some while a brown sausage shape materialised by its side, and thirty seconds afterwards a second similar object. Both appeared out of nothing and were surrounded by vapour. A Portuguese Boeing 727 also reported seeing the object as did the passengers on the Trident (who were told by the captain to look). Lisbon radar now got excited and talked of sending up interceptor jets. After two hours the Trident refuelled and set off back to London. On passing the area they switched on the radar and detected a huge shape (ten times the size of an aircraft) surrounded by two diffuse shapes. Investigation is proceeding.

NORTHERN IRELAND REPORT PART 1

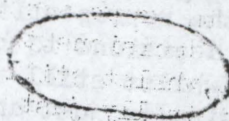
Thanks are once more due to Miles Johnstone, John Hind and their team of investigators for sending a further large batch of reports.

The first case dates to July 26th 1975 at 02.15 in Lurgan, Co. Armagh. It involves five witnesses - all of them police constables! They were standing outside the police station when they all saw a brilliant white circular object shoot across the sky at a terrific speed heading northwestwards. It was in view 15 - 20 seconds. The local airport were called, who advised that their radar had been switched off! There was, however, an incoming aircraft - but the witnesses are adamant that this was not an aircraft. They are familiar with normal phenomena, and compared it to a shooting star, except that it did not fade out rapidly as one of these does.

Paddy Galvin was riding his push bike past fields near Celbridge, Co. Kildare at 23.30 on June 19 1976. He saw at a height of about 500 feet an object which was dazzling white and shaped like a triangle. It was apparently stationary. The size was that of the full moon, and after about 10-15 seconds it just went out instantly.



Celbridge object



Ballymena object

The lady in question in this report lives in a house situated in a bog. At about 7.00pm on July 23 1976 she saw a brilliant yellow oval object pass overhead from east to west. It was only in view for 3-4 seconds, but a loud hissing noise was heard before it disappeared from view. It is very possible that this was in fact a meteor, although none are known to have been reported. The house is situated near Naas, Co. Kildare.

The final case is a most intriguing one, which is being fully investigated by the group because of possible connotations. It occurred on August 11 1976 at 21.39 and concerns four witnesses. Mrs Erwin, her 18 year old daughter and her two sons (both under seven) were driving towards Ballymena (which is 40 miles north of Belfast). Suddenly a bright white oval (almost like a disc on edge, but described as an egg) appeared to descend towards the car. It kept pace with them to the east for about three miles (ie to within four miles of Ballymena itself). The passengers were now frightened and Mrs Erwin slowed the car down to 10 mph. The object continued to bob up and down 'like a bubble'. Three miles out of the town Mrs Erwin pulled the car into the side of the road. The object now rose upwards into a cloud, where it could be seen reflecting through it. Mrs Erwin's daughter trained a pair of binoculars on the cloud and could distinguish bright rays but no actual object. After being in the cloud for less than one minute it suddenly descended rapidly and then vanished. The witnesses could not decide if this was by moving rapidly into the distance or just instantaneously. Mrs Erwin had a camera in the boot with a telescopic lens and when asked why she had not taken a picture, as the object had been in view about fifteen minutes, she explained that she 'seemed to have no life' in her and could not bring herself to get the camera. She now wonders if the object did not want to be photographed. The witnesses were very frightened. When stopped they turned the car radio off for fear that it was attracting the object. Mrs Erwin also suffers from an unusually severe static electricity effect where she causes sparks when touching anything metallic. She wonders if this is connected. Despite this fear when the object disappeared they drove the car back five miles and retraced their steps trying to find it again. Nobody can explain why they did this. They also arrived home at Ballymena at 23.30, TWO HOURS after first sighting the object. Though they do not find this odd, in view of recent time-lapse experiences it is possible that it might be.

This article will be continued in the December 1976 issue.

NUFON PUBLICATIONS

SHEFFIELD CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS (Delair, Warrington, Whitaker, Longhorn papers)

Cost 40p Post included

NORTHERN UFOLOGY - No 1 (articles, reviews and full report on Mrs H. contactee alleged experience) 14 pages Cost 30p Post included

NOTES ON PAST CASES:
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The work for the Northern England catalogue has been receiving some interesting material, previously lying dormant in dusty files. It has revealed, for example, the very real extent of a 'wave' which occurred in November 1957. I shall say no more here since it will doubtless be referred to by Bernard Delair in his paper on wave phenomena and their prediction at the BUFORA Conference. Nonetheless it shows the value of this kind of historical research, pursued so earnestly by people such as Ian Cresswell and Bryan Hartley.

REPORT 5302 comes from the BUFORA files. It tells of a woman at Bolton-on-Dearne near Rotherham, S. Yorks, who saw a big object like the moon at 6.30 one winter morning. It was stationary very low in the sky in the west. At first she thought it was the moon, but later that day she saw the real moon and it was a new one. In view of the passage of time no information can be gathered. Classify C 4 c.

REPORT 6607 has been researched by FAPURG. It concerns the observation by a large number of people, around Blackpool on the Fylde coast and out at sea, of a flare like object coloured green and orange. The date was December 4th 1966. It was explained as a meteorite and almost certainly was. Classification A 4 a

REPORT 7013 comes from Ian Cresswell's researches of Flying Saucer Review. The date November 16 1970 time 16.30, location Immingham, Nr Grimsby. Two men describe the peculiar motions of a metallic looking ellipsoid which was seen in the darkening sky. It was in view for fifteen minutes, at first stationary, then moving slowly, fading in and out, shooting an arc of light skywards, climbing skywards itself and then disappearing. Classification C 3 b

Incidentally, it should be noticed that the above reports highlight some of the problems involved in the classification system we have adopted from MURO and BUFORA. Report 7013 for example would, to my mind, be of more immediate investigational value than Report 6607 yet on the codings suggested by BUFORA and explained in our September issue 6607 has a value FIVE whilst 7013 has a value of FOUR! I would be interested to hear any suggested modifications to correct this difficulty. Possibly MORE distinction in the last two TYPE codings is needed since this would appear to be of more significance than the codings related to witnesses. Eg if CLASS four (the type which is least significant) were given ZERO points then the values of the two cases would at least be equal.

CURRENT REPORTS
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Report 7649 June 6 1976 Rainworth, Notts Investigation: MURO
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A brief note on this case was carried in the August 1976 issue. At 00.45 Mr and Mrs Wilkinson were preparing to go to bed, having had some visitors. Mrs Wilkinson was putting out the milk bottles when she saw an elongated object in the west, at an elevation of 10 to 12 degrees. She called her husband and both

MR WILKINSON:

watched the object. It was apparently stationary and consisted of two bright white lights at each end. Inside was a continuous strip of light, although Mrs Wilkinson could distinguish a series of smaller lights. The lights were pulsing at one or two second intervals. The two witnesses now went to a bedroom and

MRS WILKINSON:

looked at the object. It appeared to have moved but slightly. The witnesses got the impression that by the end of observation it had moved slightly back towards its original position. Total duration was 20 minutes. The witnesses now left the scene and on checking once more about ten minutes later nothing was seen. The reference is SK 596577: Investigated: Charles Lockwood, Malcolm Taylor C 3 b

REPORT 7684 June 22 1976 Huthwaite, Notts Investigation: MURO
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Two workmates observed a silver white object moving along a line of hills at elevation 45 degrees, time 10.15 hours. It was in view for 2 to 4 minutes and altered shape to a 'dot' without altering direction of travel. It moved below a large dark cloud and above smaller wispy clouds. It was a hot sunny day. Classification C 4 b investigation not pursued.

REPORT 7685

July 20 1976

Mansfield, Notts

Investigation: MURO

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An intriguing daylight sighting, particularly in view of the fact that nobody else but one which appears to have previewed a very definite minor flap of sightings in the east midlands. It was 17.00 on a sunny day. Mrs Parry was called into the rear yard by her young son to look at a strange object passing overhead. It was coloured like shiny aluminium and like a rugby ball end on. Estimates were that it was very low, 60 to 70 feet, and very close, within 100 feet. It moved silently and slowly and was in view ten seconds. She turned away to call her elder son and on looking back it had disappeared. She is sure it was not a balloon or airship and had in fact seen a large airship the week before (it did in fact tour the Midlands during mid July). Classification C 3 b Value 4

REPORT 7686

July 21 1976

Huthwaite, Notts

INVESTIGATION: MURO

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At 00.03 hours Mrs Downing was putting out the milk bottles when she saw a red pulsating light the size of a pea at arms length moving slowly and silently west to east. It appeared low, and at first she thought it was a helicopter. However, it changed quite distinctly to an orange colour and a circular shape and stopped pulsing. It also veered to the north in a wide arc. Finally it turned white and disappeared behind some houses. Classification: C 4 c Value 1

REPORT 7687

July 21 1976

Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts INVESTIGATION: MURO

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Mrs Castledine had just been using her telephone at about 17.10 hours. She was looking out of her sitting room eastwards over a large expanse of waste ground which has a disused railway cutting going through it. She saw an object like two saucers edge to edge, coloured like aluminium, and moving slowly across her view in a 'wavering' motion. It was slow down and obscured trees and buildings on the waste ground as it passed them. As her vision was restricted the object now vanished and she ran into the


garden, where she had an open view of the whole area. The object still progressed seemingly following the railway line, and then apparently flipped on edge, becoming round, and rose slightly above the horizon. It then changed back into a disc and hovered over a new factory. It then diminished to a dot and grew in size once more. She asked her five year old daughter to look, and she affirmed that she saw it. The object now vanished suddenly. Classification C 3 b Value 4

REPORT 7688

July 22 1976

Clumber Park, Notts

Investigation: MURO

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Between 19.30 and 20.00 a retired couple were stationary in their car in the park. At elevation 45 degrees they saw a dish shaped object surrounded by a vapour which the object appeared to be giving off and with a short trail. It was moving very slowly. The sky was clear and there was no wind. The couple now drove home to Pleasley, 13 miles away, and on arrival the object was seen again. Time was 21.30. The object slowly moved from sight. Classification C 3 b Value 4

REPORT 7689

July 28 1976

Mansfield, Notts

Investigation: MURO

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A single witness report which is interesting, but as the investigators state not of a high grade. At 00.30 21 yr old Paul Kennedy took the dog into some fields by the side of his home, which overlooks farmland. The surroundings appeared to become brighter and he looked up and saw a round silver object, apparently ten degrees in angular dimension (this figure was arrived at by later simulation). The bearing was 155 degrees and the object moved very fast out of sight behind a hill OB Ref SK 576562. Total duration of observation about 20 seconds. He felt unable to move for several seconds, and eventually ran home leaving the dog. This came back on its own unaffected. The witness is a surveyor for the National Coal Board. Investigators: Charles Lockwood, Roy Davidson. Classification C 3 c Value 3

REPORT 7890

August 1976

Merseyside

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The only details to hand are a press cutting supplied by Harold Scothern. It concerns Mr and Mrs Brooks, Mrs Brook's two children and Mr Brook's sister. They were returning from holiday driving along the M62 near Rainhill. They saw two small lights which descended and grew into the size of a farmhouse. They were moving very fast. Frightened they drove home and went inside without unpacking the car. One object descended behind trees. Classification C 4 b Value 2

REPORT 7691 August 27 1976 Ilkeston, Derbyshire Investigation: UFORA Staffs

Only one witness, a young joiner, who observed a black shape move across the face of the sun at 19.25 moving NE and rocking from side to side. At first he thought it was a bird. Then he saw a second one following the same course and he trained his telescope on it. At fifty times magnification it appeared black with a slight bump at the end. It too vanished below the horizon. Classification C 3 c Value 3

REPORT 7692 August 29 1976 Lockerbie, Scotland Investigation: BUFORA

The chief witness is extremely well qualified, a certified accountant and member of various astronomical societies, as well as being an ex RAF pilot. He was witness with his wife and son to a flying 'bun' which moved southwards and was in view for two minutes. It appeared to accelerate from stationary to a speed of several hundred miles per hour, and was estimated as no higher than 5000 feet. It was described as being three quarter inches at arms length. Classification B 3 b Value 5

REPORT 7693 September 28 1976 Audley, Staffs Investigation: UFORA Staffs

A GPO Engineer was driving his car towards Stoke when at 19.40 hours he saw a silver light like a street lamp suspended low in the east. It did not move and he did not see it disappear, but when he reached the point where it was there was nothing but open fields. An AA Repair man also witnessed the object from nearby. He is being interviewed. Classification: C 4 a Value 3

REPORT 7694 October 6 1976 Barrow, Cumbria Investigation:

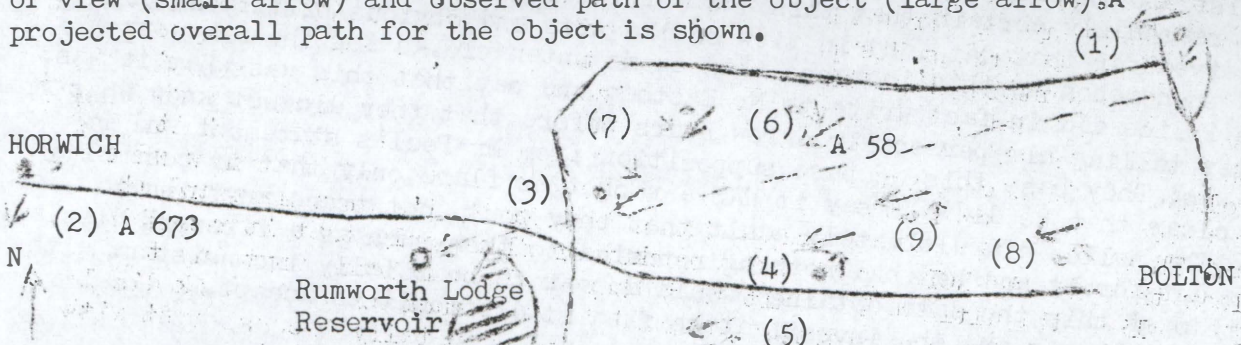
There have been several press cuttings on this report, which seems to involve several witnesses. They have been received from BUFORA and passed to Ian Cresswell for investigation. The time was 07.27 and the object was described as an elongated light bulb. Classification: C 4 a Value 3

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MULTI-WITNESS PHENOMENON OVER BOLTON Report 7682 (see October 1976 issue)

INTRODUCTION

The Bolton area has been the scene of many recent reports, possibly due partly to the interest taken by the local press. This series of events was investigated by Arthur Tomlinson of DIGAP and Peter Hough of MUFORA, who thank the press for their help. It concerns a series of observations on September 23 1976 at around 23.30 hours. Interviews were conducted with nine sets of witnesses between September 24th and 30th. Brief summaries of their statements are given with the parameters obtained. The sketch map indicates their locations and the direction of view (small arrow) and observed path of the object (large arrow). A projected overall path for the object is shown.



1:MR & MRS EASTHAM OS REF 712117 Time 23.30. Object described as red round light surrounded by silver rim (fig a). They saw it from bed and got out to watch it move horizontally and then drop behind trees. It was in view for several seconds and was larger than the full moon in size. They reported it to the police and their story was the one which received most coverage in the press.

2:MR DRAPER OS REF 653103 Time 23.25. He was outside walking the dog when the object streaked overhead and dropped behind a copse steeply. It was one inch in diameter at arms length, and red with a bulbous pink top (see Fig b). Elevation 45°

3:MR & MRS NIGHTINGALE OS REF 684099 Time 23.45. They describe the object as round and orange, surrounded by a thin yellowish band. It moved horizontally for about ten seconds and then suddenly 'went out' leaving a shower of sparks. (Fig c)

4:MR PEEL OS REF 694093 Time 23.20. This is a key report. The witness is a former naval man and he HEARD a noise like a rifle shot, which disturbed the wildlife. He looked up in time to see a red flare slowly falling behind trees. It was just like a verry flare, but it was, too high and large, he thought.

5: MRS HARASIMIUK OS REF 690078 Time 23.15. She describes an object shaped like an ellipse and coloured red pink. It was, again larger than the full moon and travelled parallel with the roof tops for several seconds before falling steeply at an angle.

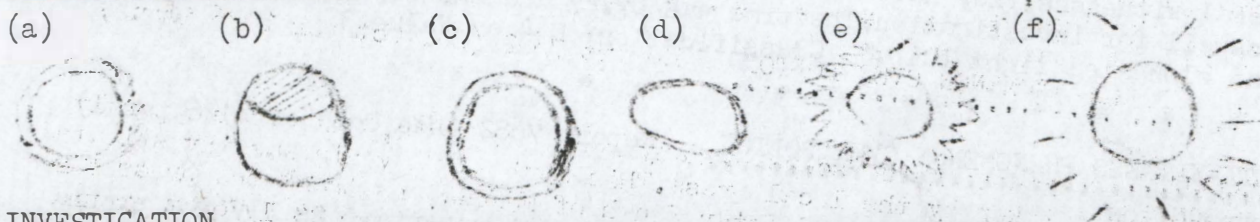
6. MRS FOLEY OS REF 692103 Time 23.30. She describes the object as elliptical and coloured a deep pinky red. It was one and a half times the size of the full moon and in view twelve seconds at an elevation of 35 degrees. It descended behind trees. (Fig d)

7. MRS PARKINSON & BAINES OS REF 689104 Time 23.30. She had just finished talking with her neighbour when Mrs Parkinson saw the object. It was red in the centre and surrounded by 'rose petals' of a lighter colour. It moved slowly crossing the sky in fifteen seconds (this was compared later with an aircraft which took thirty seconds over the same approximate route). It was at least as large as the full moon and moved behind trees, apparently turning white as it did so. The time in this case was recorded by electric clock. Mrs Baines affirms the sighting as she was standing close by. (Fig e)

8. MR BIRCH OS REF 705095 Time 23.30. Describes a large red light, bigger than the full moon. In view ten seconds or more elevation 40 degrees.

9. MRS ASPINALL OS REF 697096 Time 23.30. This also is a significant report, as she had one of the more open aspects to the rear. She is a night nurse at an old folks home and saw the object through the kitchen window. She said it was elliptical, rose red, and streaming out white light. It moved very slowly and was in view for a minute or more. The size was FOUR times that of the full moon (Fig f)

DRAWINGS OF THE OBJECT



INVESTIGATION

It was fairly easy to rule out the more remote possibilities such as aircraft. In the view of the investigators two possibilities remained. These were a meteorite and a flare or firework. In order to check the fireball theory recourse was made to Dr. S. Hindley, of the British Astronomical Association. He keeps a full record of fireball reports in the UK and is always willing to assist ufo investigations. His phone number incidentally is 0904-64471. He was reasonably certain that this was NOT a meteorite. No reports had been received for that date, and in view of the size and obvious brilliance of the phenomenon in this instance this seems untenable. As for the firework the Police did in fact write to Mr Eastham and say that this was what it was, after telling him personally a few hours before that they did not know what it was! They base this on pure supposition from Mr Peel's statement and it is clear that he did NOT say it WAS a rocket or flare, only that it resembled one. The police did ultimately admit that they could not trace anything to account for it and had had nothing reported to them such as a firework display. Outside of this the data obtained would appear to be totally inconsistent with this hypothesis and the investigators find it difficult to accept.

CONCLUSIONS

The great amount of detail obtained allowed a fairly accurate sequence of events to be plotted. There were discrepancies, chiefly with the time, but on the whole descriptions consistently pointed to a very large object (at least the size of the full moon), at an elevation of 45 degrees descending and performing a steady horizontal flight followed by a steep drop. The duration is again consistently too long for a rocket. It was at least 10 seconds, and in instances where a clear horizon was present somewhat longer. Since there were witnesses on all sides of the flight path this can be drawn quite accurately. The object appears to have traversed some three miles before descending over Rumworth Lodge Reservoir (scene of the Shelley Barnes close encounter in January 76). It was seen from an area of several square kilometers, and from elevations and bearings a reasonable estimate for height and size could be gleaned. It was, consequently, something like 25 feet in diameter and 3000 feet up. Comparing that with the speed of the aircraft at the same height (roughly), see text, the speed would be about 800 Mph. Some firework!